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B. Webb

PATENT
Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 7528.0002-15

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re 53(b) Continuation Application of)
Application No. 09/985,361)
Inventors: Cyril J. SCHWEICH, Jr. et al.) Group Art Unit: Not yet assigned
Filed: February 14, 2002) Examiner: Not yet assigned
For: HEART WALL TENSION)
REDUCTION APPARATUS)
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Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to the examination of the above application, please amend this application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-14, and add the following new claims 15-39:

15. (New) A static device for use with an unrestricted heart having an outer wall and at least one chamber, said device comprising:

a plurality of members configured to be positioned adjacent the epicardial surface of the heart; and

a connector joining the members, and said connector comprises a band configured for extending around the chamber and joining at least two of the members,

wherein said members are fixed in a spaced relationship relative to each other such that at least two portions of the outer wall are displaced inwardly from the unrestricted position.

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